

NEW STEEL CONSTRUCTION

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Transport museum on track
Offices arrive at Victoria
Liverpool gets handle on Academy
Olympic pool in Corby

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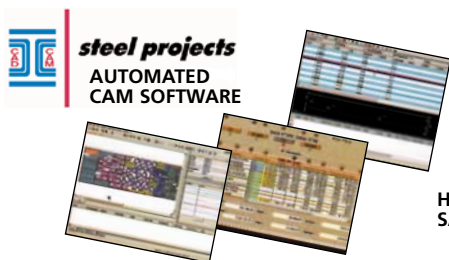


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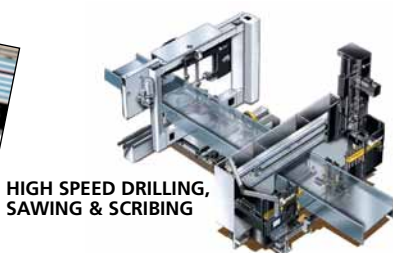
FICEP has over 100 automated steel processing machines in its team lineup that can be used as highly efficient stand-alone performers or integrated into a complete, software controlled production line using state-of-the-art CAM software. The productivity increases and reductions in production costs that are achievable set new performance benchmarks within the structural steel and fabrication industry.

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* Patent pending



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SHOT BLASTING



PERMANENT MAGNETIC
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PLASMA &
GAS CUTTING



PIPE CUTTING

16



These and other steelwork articles can be downloaded from the New Steel Construction website at www.new-steel-construction.com

Cover Image
Riverside Museum, Glasgow
 Client: Glasgow City Council
 Cultural Leisure Services
 Architect: Zaha Hadid Associates
 Steelwork contractor: Watson Steel Structures
 Steel tonnage: 2,525t



- 5 Editor's comment** Growth sectors may be few at present but steel is well represented in two - education and healthcare writes Nick Barrett.
- 6 News** The 2008 Market Shares Survey shows steel's total market share remains above 70% in what was a record year for multi storey building frames.
- 11 Eurocode implementation** The countdown.
- 12** As part of the town's regeneration programme, **Corby** is building one of the UK's few Olympic-sized 50m swimming pools.
- 14** Steel construction came to the fore at **East Kilbride's Playsport project**, one of the UK's largest public sports centres.
- 16** A Jaguar car door handle was the inspiration behind the design for the new **North Liverpool Academy**.
- 18** An architectural masterpiece is taking shape on the banks of the River Clyde to house **Glasgow's historic transport** collection.
- 22** The last in NSC's **Supply Chain** series examines the role of steelwork fabrication machinery manufacturers.
- 24** An impressive D-shaped commercial development is under construction on a prestigious site opposite **London's Victoria Station**.
- 28** John Dowling of Corus explains BS 9999, a recently published code of practice for **fire safety** in the design, management and use of buildings.
- 30** SCI members have completed a **survey** on the steel sector's preparations for the Eurocodes.
- 32 40 Years Ago** Our look back through the pages of Building with Steel features a multi storey office building in the USA.
- 34 Advisory Desk** The latest advice from SCI - AD 330 - examines open top box girders for bridges.
- 34 Codes and Standards**
- 35 Publications**
- 36 BCSA members**
- 38 SCI members**



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Steel still dominates growth sectors

Fewer construction projects will be undertaken this year as recession bites, but it is hard to see any reason to expect steel to be selected for a smaller proportion of them than has now become usual. As we see from the latest Market Shares Survey from independent researchers Construction Markets (see News page 6), steel still enjoys a dominant share of the key multi storey buildings market and its dominance in single storey industrial buildings is overwhelming.

Growth sectors will be few and far between this year, and perhaps next as well, but steel is well represented in two of the most important ones, education and healthcare. Steel is about as popular with clients and designers in those two growth areas as it is in the multi storey sector – which is to say it is the framing solution of first choice.

Steel construction is a 20 year growth success story without parallel and the reasons why are evident from any issue of NSC. This month's issue carries a report from another education sector project, the North Liverpool Academy, which shows the steel solution delivering sound value, as expected. As well as achieving a cost effective solution for the academy overall, steel's flexibility was able to turn what might have been a workaday entrance into a focal point whose design is intended to inspire generations of students. The complicated design was taken in their stride by the construction team using steel.

Similar stories are repeated on other pages. Glasgow's iconic new transport museum could hardly have taken the shape it is doing, certainly not in the time it is taking, if it was framed in anything other than steel. Also in Scotland, the country's most advanced public sports facility has been erected on a difficult site with a minimum of fuss.

In the old steel town of Corby a steel framed Olympic sized swimming pool, one of only a few in the UK, to be used as a training pool for the 2012 London Olympics, is fittingly playing a part in putting a regenerating town on the map. Cellular beams will be left exposed for aesthetic reasons in a design that the client calls 'first class'.

Our Supply Chain series concludes this month with a look at the contribution made by equipment manufacturers to the steel success story. Investment in these productivity and quality enhancing state of the art machines has been one of the keys to the productivity gains that have been shared by the steel sector with its clients.

No issue of NSC would be complete without a modern office building showing steel to its best advantage, delivering a cost effective, sustainable, quality solution on time and to budget. This one, Abford House, could hardly be on a more high profile site, right outside London's Victoria Station where thousands of people witness its rapid progress every day. With this sort of track record we can confidently expect next year's Market Shares Survey to continue the steel success trend.



Nick Barrett - Editor



Steel leads the market for frames

Steel has been confirmed as the structural framing solution of first choice of the overwhelming majority of the UK design community in the latest Market Shares Survey. The 2008 survey, by independent market researchers Construction Markets, shows that steel's market share remained above 70% in what was a record year for multi storey building frames.

Steel enjoyed a 70.1% share of the overall market of 15.3M square metres for multi storey building frames. Dominant market share was also retained in the key growth sectors of education and healthcare. Steel's share of the single storey building market remained high at 97%.

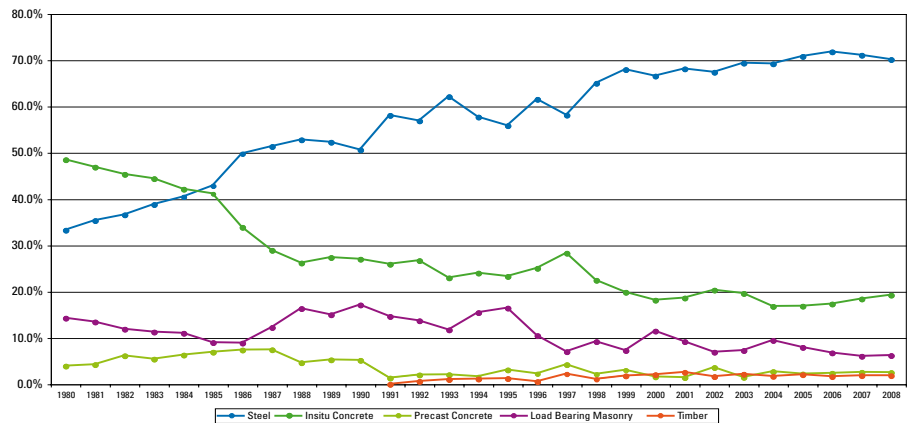
Corus Construction Services and Development General Manager Alan Todd said: "This is the 28th in this series of surveys which tell us all we need to know about the market response to steel's quality and economic solutions. Despite the need for price rises being forced on steel manufacturers worldwide in recent years steel has maintained its competitive position.

"Rival materials have also faced intense price pressures so the relative competitive situation

is little changed. When developers and their construction teams factor in the many advantages of steel such as superior sustainability and more certainty with construction programmes, the case for steel is obviously overwhelming."

Mr Todd added that although a challenging year lay ahead for the construction industry Corus remained committed to continuing its long

term investment in research and development, and to making available to designers all they need to make designing in structural steel as straightforward as possible. "We are determined to continue investing so that steel construction can be even more popular with designers and building developers coming out of this recession than it was going into it."



The Market for Structures – Non-Residential Multi-Storey Buildings – Total



Sustainability key to supermarket project

One of the largest ever pre-let distribution centres in the South East is currently under construction near Sittingbourne, Kent.

Known as G. Park Sittingbourne, the project is located close to the M2 motorway and consists of approximately 85,000m² of warehousing and distribution

space, split across two units, for supermarket chain Morrisons

Atlas Ward Structures, which was responsible for all steelwork design and fabrication, has erected more than 2,700t of steelwork for the project.

Sustainability is playing a key role in the development of the site

and although early enabling works included a large earthmoving and cut and fill operation, no excavated material left the site.

All overburden was used to create new wildlife ponds and grassland areas to replace drained areas of the site.

A number of cutting edge

sustainable features are being incorporated into the project such as kinetic plates on estate roads, which will generate power from vehicles passing over them. Other ecological measures include rainwater harvesting and recycling as well as energy efficient lighting.

Iconic office block for steel city's gateway

A new pre-let eight-storey commercial development is taking shape on Sheffield's Parkway. Approximately 400t of structural steelwork will be erected by Hambleton Steel for the project which is located at the city's recognised gateway.

Jonathan Palmer, Structural Engineer for Capita Symonds Structures, says the project features some impressive architectural elements such as a 40m-high inclined external CHS braced rear

elevation and horizontally planned A-frames at two intermediate levels.

Other notable features include an impressive overhanging disk shaped canopy which will form a high level tied flag pole.

Taking inspiration from designs adopted in locations such as Dubai, the rear of the structure has shallow overhangs extending 6m from support and these will be formed with heavy columns in a fan arrangement.



CE Marking edition of NSSS updated

To help specifiers fully understand the forthcoming CE Marking standard for structural steelwork, the BCSA and SCI are updating the National Structural Steelwork Specification (NSSS).

The updated edition will take into account the requirements given in

BS EN 1090-2 and the forthcoming CE Marking standard for fabricated steelwork, BS EN 1090-1.

The European standard for the fabrication and erection of steel and aluminium structures (BS EN 1090-2: 2008 'Erection of steel structures and aluminium

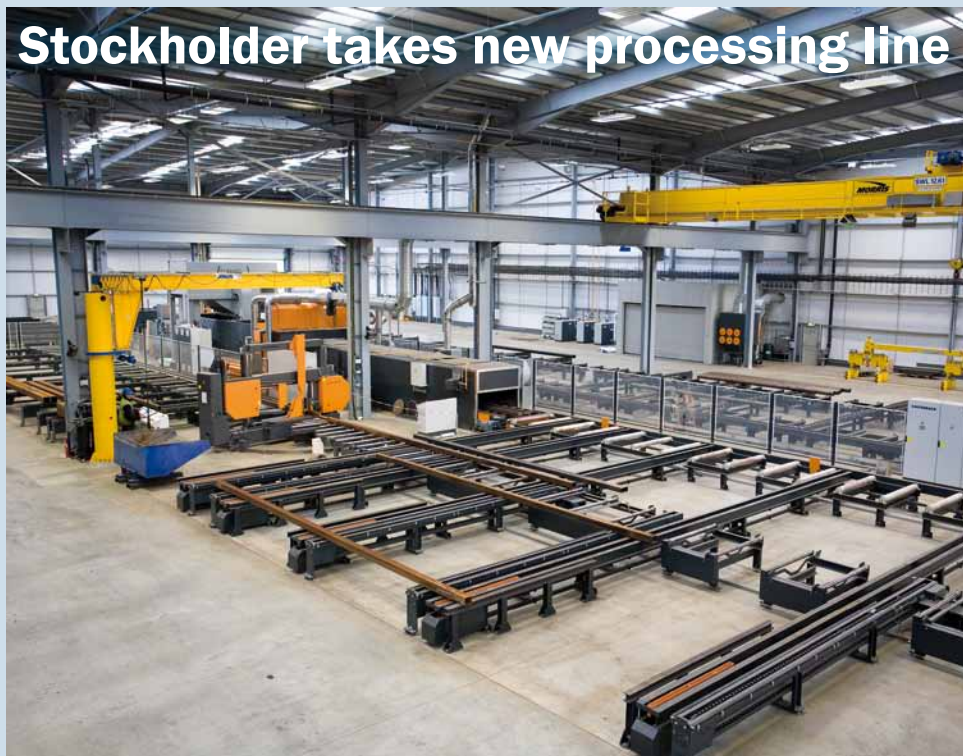
structures Part 2: Technical requirements for the execution of steel structures) was published by the BSI last December.

BS EN 1090-2 will supersede several existing standards, such as BS 5950-2 (Buildings), BS 5400-6 (Bridges) and part of BS 8100

(Towers and Masts). It has a wide scope of application and requires specifiers to make a series of project or application specific decisions before execution can commence.

It is anticipated that the new NSSS will be available in May 2009.

Stockholder takes new processing line



A new state of the art Kaltenbach structural steel processing line has been installed at Rainham Steel's main distribution facility in Scunthorpe.

The line includes a 100m long central conveying system that passes material through the latest Gietart Sprint 1.6 shotblast and automated paint system, which in turn sits between two parallel bandsawing lines, each with a Kaltenbach KBS1301 DG, CNC saw.

The saw lines are interlinked to a heavy-duty KDX 1215, three axis, five tool per spindle, NC drill. Material exiting the paint drying tunnel can be automatically transferred by cross ways onto either of the bandsawing systems and if required, onward to the drill.

"Our process line is the latest phase of our expansion and gives us a formidable added capability and speed of response," said John Green, Works Manager at the Scunthorpe site.

Rail crossing on track

Allerton Bridges' new Durham factory has successfully completed its first project, the Marske Mill Lane Overbridge in Saltburn.

The 23m long x 8m wide structure replaces a Victorian railway crossing and has increased the bridge's weight carrying limit from 4t to 40t.

Allerton Bridges completed the 45t steel construction at its fabrication shop in Tursdale, near Belmont, Durham, in four weeks. The £140,000 contract, commissioned by Network Rail, is the first to be produced by the team following the opening of the facility in October 2008.

John Riddle, Managing Director of Allerton Bridges, said: "The bridge side of the market is very buoyant at the moment and this is just the first of a number of orders we have in place over the coming months."



Contract Journal

14 January 2009

Sustainability in great store

Referring to the Blue Planet warehouse at Chatterley Valley, McLaren Construction Site Manager Peter Goodman, says: "We looked at green roofs and Glulam frames but they couldn't be purchased in the size we needed so it was decided steel was the best solution because it is recyclable and has a 100-year lifespan."

Construction News

27 November 2008

Looking to make a very quick fix

The steel structure modules are like an aquarium frame as they are very light and consist simply of beams at roof and floor level linked by just four columns in each of the two modules.

New Civil Engineer

11-18 December 2008

Keeping it simple

The steel truss roof of the 2012 Handball arena is the art of simplicity - standard purlin, with short spans. "We are keeping the spans as short as possible to keep down the cost of the roof structure and the cost of the building," says Arup Associate Director Andy Pye.

Construction News

22 January 2009

Hunting down the defining discovery in construction

From the point of view of a steelwork engineer, the development of the plastic theory of design has revolutionised the way we design. It focuses on the specific strength qualities of steel to bring about economy.

Building Magazine

23 January 2009

Plane geometry

(Referring to Cranfield University) But the real eye-catcher here is the assemblage of open steel trusses holding up the roof directly above it - an intricate 3D web of solid beams, open web beams and slender ties.

Construction Products Regulations due this year

The European Commission is proposing to replace the Construction Products Directive with the Construction Products Regulations.

The aim is to remove all remaining regulatory and technical obstacles to the free trade of construction products in the European Union and simplify the CE Marking process.

It is expected to be approved this year and if accepted they will come

in to force in July 2011.

Dr David Moore, BCSA Director of Engineering, said: "The main difference between the current directive and the proposed regulations, is that the regulations will be mandatory in all EU member states."

Currently CE Marking of construction products in the UK and the Republic of Ireland is voluntary, but this will become mandatory once

the regulations are in place.

The relevant European harmonised standard for CE Marking fabricated steelwork is EN 1090-1 Execution of steel structures and aluminium structures - Part 1 Requirements for conformity assessment of structural components.

A copy of the proposal is available on the Europa website at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/construction/index_en.htm

Yorkshire gets new steel framed college

Steelwork has been completed on the new Keighley College project in West Yorkshire. More than 1,200t of structural steelwork has been erected on site by Elland Steel Structures, on what is regarded as the largest construction job in the town for 20 years.

Bob Thorpe, Chief Executive for Elland Steel, said: "We erected a beam and column structure consisting of upper ground floor, first, second and third floors, lower roof and main roof with parapets, a mezzanine floor, a curved facade and an entrance lobby."

Conveniently located next to the town's railway station the new Park Lane College Keighley will replace two existing educational sites nearby.



Makeover for fire test centre

Leighs Paints has completed the first phase of a multi-million pound redevelopment plan to its onsite FIRETEX fire test centre.

The initial £500,000 investment to replace the stack and associated filtration system, will allow an increased number of new product development tests to be performed each day.

During the test, Leighs Paints fire protective coatings range, known as FIRETEX, are tested to extreme temperatures in two onsite furnaces. The tests play a vital role in ensuring the coatings protect steel structures



from collapse in the event of a fire.

Andy Taylor, Head of Science at Leighs Paints, said: "This is the first phase of an exciting redevelopment

plan of our fire test facilities. It will help Leighs Paints' technical team in their ongoing quest to develop safer and more efficient coatings."

Olympic site reaches half way point



Work on the London 2012 Olympic Park is progressing on schedule and during January the project celebrated reaching the half way point between winning the bid to host the Games and the Opening Ceremony on 27 July 2012.

Olympic Delivery Authority Chairman John Armitt said: "Half way to 2012 we are right on track. We are making good progress but we are not complacent, there is still a big challenge ahead."

Construction of the Olympic Stadium and the Aquatics Centre started last year, ahead of schedule, and work is now also underway on the Olympic Village and infrastructure such as energy networks, roads and bridges.

Steel rakers being erected by Watson Steel Structures are now visible as the upper tiers of the Stadium (left) are being formed.

Thousands of job opportunities are being created this year for various construction professions, as well as administrative and support staff. The workforce on the Olympic Park and Village is expected to peak at around 11,000 in 2010, with a total of around 30,000 workers expected to be employed up to 2012.

Corus lends support to sustainability exhibition

Corus will be an official supporter of the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) stand at the Ecobuild and Futurebuild 2009 exhibition which takes place at London's Earls Court from 3-5 March.

Ecobuild is the world's largest sustainable construction exhibition,

and the UKGBC has been a headline supporter of the expo since its inception. Part of the stand will display the Corus sustainability story, while Corus representatives will also be on hand to discuss UKGBC and steel industry issues.

The UKGBC was launched in 2007 to bring clarity, purpose and coordination of sustainability to the sector. Its mission is to dramatically improve the sustainability of the built environment by radically transforming the way it is planned, designed, constructed, maintained and operated.

As well as 800 exhibitors, Ecobuild will have over 100 practical and applied seminars, and more than a dozen interactive attractions. There will also be a conference held over the three days, which this year hosts the inaugural conference of the UKGBC.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, will address the crowds at Ecobuild in a keynote speech on the first morning of the event.

For more information and to register for the exhibition visit: www.ecobuild.co.uk

Working week campaign launched

The BCSA is running a campaign against the abolition of the opt out to the maximum average 48 hour working week.

In June last year, ministers reached an agreement on a package of measures relating to the Working Time Directive, including retention of the opt out, but this was reversed by the European Parliament in

December. The British Government wants to keep the opt out and ministers are now in talks with their European counterparts in a process referred to as 'conciliation'.

Simon Boyd of John Reid & Sons (Strucsteel), speaking on behalf of the BCSA, said: "Our industry is one in which in good times and bad, work fluctuates and we have to be left free

to work the necessary hours to be able to compete in a global market. We have been polling our workers and those of our subcontractors and some 94% want to keep the opt out".

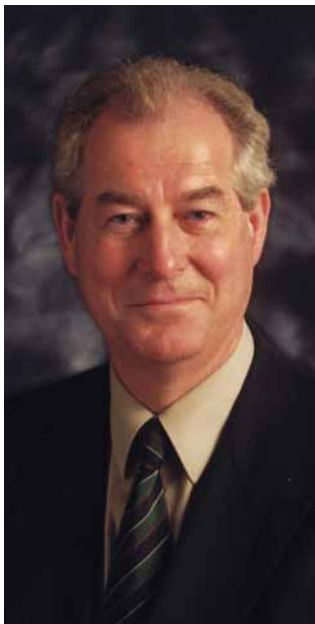
For further information, please contact Marion Rich, Director of Legal and Contractual Affairs at the BCSA.

After a number of years of lobbying by the BCSA and its colleagues in the Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group, changes to the 'Construction Act' were announced in the Queen's Speech last December. The changes, contained in Part 8 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Bill, were introduced into the House of Lords on 4 December. Lord O'Neill has laid some amendments to part 8 of the Bill to strengthen the adjudication provisions and simplify the payment provisions.

Lindapter has launched the Type LS, a premium self-adjusting clamping system manufactured from high-grade stainless steel, designed for use in harsh environments. Dubbed the Claw, due to the aggressive curved and pointed shape, the clamp is suitable for various flange thicknesses and slopes up to 10 degrees.

CSC has been appointed as an authorised Autodesk AEC reseller for the supply of Autodesk Revit Structure, together with associated training and support services, within the UK and Republic of Ireland. Both companies are firmly committed to Revit Structure as they say it represents the future of BIM (Building Information Modelling) for structural engineers.

The steel framed headquarters building of contracting firm Fitzpatrick, erected by **Hambleton Steel**, won its fourth sustainability award, Building Magazine's 'Sustainable Building of the Year (Large Project)' for 2008. Use of environmental features has helped to reduce the building's carbon footprint by around 70% and led to the award of a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating.



Former BCSA President honoured

Tom Goldberg, BCSA President from 2003-05, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List 2009 for his work in assisting international trade.

He is well known in the steelwork sector and was formerly Joint Managing Director of Atlas Ward Structures. Currently he is a co-owner of a number of steelwork contractors based in the UK, Germany, Poland, Ukraine and China.

Steelwork climbs into top twenty

Caunton Engineering is currently erecting steelwork for a new head office and logistics centre for Teva, one of the top twenty pharmaceutical companies in the world.

Located in Castleford, West Yorkshire, the purpose built centre includes an 18,724m² warehouse and an integrated 4,875m²

four-storey office block. The facility will be Teva's UK distribution hub and it will have a storage capacity five times greater than the company's current site.

Main contractor is Winvic Construction which is constructing the project for Teva on behalf of the developer ProLogis.



Seafront apartments are put in the frame

More than 200t of cold rolled steel from Metsec's Framing Division facilitated the fast track completion of two multi-storey apartment blocks on the seafront at North Bay, Scarborough.

The Sands is a multi-million pound phased leisure development on 55 acres of land owned by Scarborough Borough Council. Completing the scheme are 96 luxury one, two and three bedroom apartments and four penthouses.

Metframe contractors PAW Structures fabricated the light-

weight framing elements offsite, bolting together light gauge galvanised steel components supplied already cut to length, then transported them to site for final assembly.

This time saving building technique meant that apartments were ready for the first residents to move into less than 21 months after demolition of the earlier buildings.

The two residential blocks, the five-storey Kepwick House, and the adjacent six-storey elliptical Lockton House, both include ground floor retail units.

The project's prefabricated structures include Metframe cantilevered balconies tied back into the main framework. Exterior walls are clad in cement particle board with an insulated rendered finish. The project was built for developer Benchmark Properties by main contractor Tolent Construction.



Diary

For all Corus events visit www.corusevents.com email events@corusgroup.com tel: 01724 405060
For all BCSA events contact Gillian Mitchell tel 020 7747 8121 email: gillian.mitchell@steelconstruction.org

4 February 2009
EC3 2 Day course
Dublin

11 February 2009
EC4 Composite Design Course
Dublin

12 February 2009
ISE Connection Design Course
Joint with ISE, London

24-25 February 2009
EC3 2 Day course
London



26 February 2009
Preparation for Eurocodes
Joint with ISE, London



3 March 2009
Steel Frame Solutions
Manchester



10 March 2009
EC4 Composite Design Course
Leeds



17 March 2009
Stability of Steel Frame Buildings
Joint with ISE, London



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Countdown to Eurocode Implementation



NA for EC3: Part 1.10 – Fracture toughness

The National Annex for *Eurocode 3: General rules and rules for buildings Part 1.10: Material toughness and through thickness properties* is currently with the BSI editor and is scheduled to be published early this year. This Eurocode gives a complex expression for determining fracture toughness which will be unfamiliar to most UK designers. Fortunately the NA is accompanied by a BSI Published Document *PD 6695-1 Recommendations for the design of structures to BS EN 1993-1-10* which gives a simple procedure together with look-up tables for the maximum thickness for internal steelwork in buildings ($T_{md} = -5C$) and the maximum thickness for external steelwork in buildings ($T_{md} = -15C$). The tables below compare the thicknesses from BS 5950-1 with EC3: Part 1.10 for welding general with $k=1.0$ for internal and external conditions.

The Eurocode together with its NA give limiting thicknesses which are similar to and in some cases better than those given in BS 5959-1. The PD is also scheduled for publication this year.

Maximum thicknesses – Internal

Steel grade and quality to BS EN 10025-2	BS 5950 Part 1 K = 1.0 Stress > 0.3 Y_{nom}	EC3 Part 1.10 $\Delta T_{RD} = 0C$	
		Stress = $0.3\sigma_{Ed}/f_y(t)$	Stress > $0.5\sigma_{Ed}/f_y(t)$
S275 JR S275 J0 S275 J2	36 mm 65 mm 94 mm	50 mm 85 mm 122.5 mm	40 mm 70 mm 102.5 mm
S355 JR S355 J0 S355 J2	25 mm 46 mm 66 mm	37.5 mm 67.5 mm 100 mm	22.5 mm 45 mm 67.5 mm

Maximum thicknesses – External

Steel grade and quality to BS EN 10025-2	BS 5950 Part 1 K = 1.0 Stress > 0.3 Y_{nom}	EC3 Part 1.10 $\Delta T_{RD} = 0C$	
		Stress = $0.3\sigma_{Ed}/f_y(t)$	Stress > $0.5\sigma_{Ed}/f_y(t)$
S275 JR S275 J0 S275 J2	20 mm 54 mm 78 mm	27.5 mm 70 mm 102.5 mm	22.5 mm 60 mm 85 mm
S355 JR S355 J0 S355 J2	14 mm 38 mm 55 mm	15 mm 45 mm 67.5 mm	12.5 mm 37.5 mm 55 mm

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Already online:

- Worked examples
- Tedds Lite examples
- Case studies
- Harmonised guidance on steel design



Swimming pool to kick-start regeneration

The Northamptonshire town of Corby has some ambitious plans which include rebuilding and redesigning large areas of the town centre. Martin Cooper reports from one of the first projects to near completion, a new 50m Olympic sized swimming pool.

After more than twenty five years of depression, which began with the closure of the local steelworks, things are definitely looking up in Corby. During the last few years, there has been real impetus to redevelop and a number of high profile jobs are currently ongoing which will transform the Northamptonshire town.

It all began in 2003 when Corby, along with other towns in the area (Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton) was designated as a major growth area in the MKSM SRS (Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy), which, among other things, meant accommodating 16,800 new homes by the year 2021.

Corby Borough Council has some grand plans, a new and revamped town centre is underway, a new train station - with direct services to London - will shortly open, a new civic centre is under construction and the town will have one of the UK's few 50m-long Olympic sized swimming pools.

"It's all about putting Corby on the map," says Peter Griggs, Head of Special Projects for Corby Borough Council, explaining the decision to build only the second 50m pool in the East Midlands. "We have a lot of work currently underway and on the drawing board, the pool is an iconic structure and

something the whole town will be proud of."

Officially titled the Corby East Midlands International Swimming Pool, the project is a real symbol of the regeneration of the town centre. The original plans envisaged a 25m pool, but this was later revised and the fact that it has already been shortlisted as a training venue for the London 2012 Olympics, the decision to go for the larger pool has been vindicated.

"A number of residents were initially sceptical about the town's plans," says Councillor John McGhee. "But since work has got under way and the spectacular swimming pool building has become visible, people have really got behind the project."

When it opens in June, the Corby pool will provide a 50m, eight lane main pool, national junior standard diving boards, a 20m learner pool, a fun pool with a flume, spectator seating for up to 400 people, health suite, a dance studio, a creche and a cafe.

The pool will be equipped with two sets of hydraulic barriers which can be raised to divide the pool into thirds when the full 50m length is not required. This will allow one sector for diving, another end for practice swimming and a central zone of 25m for short course racing.



FACT FILE

**Corby East Midlands
International Swimming
Pool**

Main client:
Corby Borough Council
Architect:
S & P Architects
Main contractor:
Willmott Dixon
Structural engineer:
WYG Engineering
Steelwork contractor:
Hambleton Steel
Steel tonnage: 410t

Above: The pool will be the centrepiece of Corby's regeneration.



Above: Cellular beams, which will remain exposed, have been used in the changing room areas as an architectural feature.

Work on the project began earlier this year, on a site which is located adjacent to Corby's existing 25m long swimming pool. The site was originally a surface car park and main contractor Willmott Dixon had to first excavate a basement level which meant digging down to a maximum depth of 6m. This task was not just to accommodate the pool itself, but also a system of air ducts that run beneath the pool, and pump rooms which are also located underground.

Covering the facility is a large curved steel framed structure which contains 410t of structural steelwork. However, the pool is formed with concrete and such is the depth of this material needed to accommodate the amount of water, there is actually more steel under the structure, as the concrete's rebar amounts to some 500t.

Early works predominantly involved concrete,

The pool will be equipped with two sets of hydraulic barriers which can be raised to divide the pool into thirds.

the pool was cast, the slab for the remainder of the ground floor was also installed. This meant once the steelwork was ready to be erected over the pool, it had to be installed from the perimeter of the structure's footprint.

"We weren't allowed to run cranes within the pool, so everything was erected by a combination of the on site tower

crane and a mobile crane positioned beside the pool," explains Andrew Aykroyd, Site Supervisor, Hambleton Steel Ltd.

Covering the pool area and forming the distinctive domed shape are a series of 32m long, 2.5m deep trusses. Spaced at 8m centres, the trusses were brought to site in two 16m sections. Lifting the trusses was one of the main challenges of the steelwork programme.

"Because the site is very confined we had nowhere to assemble the trusses on the ground, so we had to tandem lift them and then bolt them

together in mid air," says Mr Aykroyd.

The steel trusses are structurally integral to the entire structure as they support the roof. Spanning the pool structure length wise, 90 degrees to the trusses, are a series of 80m long glulam rafters. These architectural feature beams thread through the steel trusses and are bolted down at either end to concrete plinths.

The glulam beams were too long to be brought to site in one section and they have been installed in a series of 8m long pieces. "We erected the timber rafters and purlins along with the steelwork, it made the programme easier," says Mr Aykroyd. "During the design process it was very challenging however, as we had to design connections to timber as well as the glazing."

Other notable steelwork includes the building's bracing, which is concentrated in lift and stair cores and has also been secreted along the structure's ends.

"The structure is basically a braced frame, and once the design had changed to a 50m pool we reinstated the steel profile by designing the steel trusses to be structurally integral," explains Bill Duke, Associate Director for WYG Design.

On one side of the pool the building features a terrace viewing gallery and opposite there is a two-storey changing room block. Cellular beams, mostly 800mm deep, have been used extensively in these areas.

"Most of the beams in the roof will be left exposed and so the design opted for cellular beams for appearance," explains Mr Duke. "Although some have been used at floor levels where there are service considerations."

Corby's swimming pool is scheduled to open on 29 June 2009 and Chris Stephenson, Corby Borough Council's Head of Service, says the town's decision to bite the bullet and go for an Olympic sized facility has been fully justified.

"The pool will help improve the town's wellbeing, create jobs and, importantly, it looks great - the design is first class."

Above: The facility has been shortlisted as a training venue for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Left: The pool includes a flume and fun area.



Giant sports complex for Scotland

One of the UK's largest public sports centres is under construction in East Kilbride. Sporting facilities on offer at the Playsport Scotland project will include golf, football, tennis, badminton and swimming.

FACT FILE

Playsport Scotland complex, East Kilbride

Main client:

Playgolf Kilmartin

Architect:

Smith Design Associates

Structural engineer:
RPS

Main contractor:

Sir Robert McAlpine

Steelwork contractor:

Atlas Ward Structures

Steel tonnage: 850t

Above: The project's building has two steps because of the sloping topography.

"Despite the bad weather and the exposed nature of the site, the steel went up without any problems."

Below: Steel erection took 12 weeks

Below right: One section of the steel building contains a mezzanine level.

The Playsport Scotland development covers an area of 90 acres and is located adjacent to the Kingsgate Retail Park near East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire. The complex will include a nine hole PowerPlay golf course, a 58 bay golf driving range and golf academy, one of the UK's largest indoor tennis and badminton centre, five-a-side and seven-a-side football pitches and a health and fitness centre with a 25m swimming pool.

Indoor facilities are housed within a 20,438m² steel framed building erected by Atlas Ward Structures. As well as the tennis and fitness areas, the building will also contain a family centre with adventure golf, laser games and soft play area as well as conferencing space, a restaurant and sports retail outlets.

The main part of the building is a four span portal frame which incorporates an 8m slope. To take into account the topography of the ground the building has three sections, two which step down 4m each.

The upper section contains two floors, the family area and health and fitness zone on the ground floor, and retail and conference facilities above.

Stepping down the slope, the two lower sections of the portal frame both contain single storey tennis court zones.

"The building had to follow the profile of the land," explains David Mellow, Engineer of RPS. "Just below the surface the ground is basalt rock so earthmoving wasn't economical and the design had to incorporate steps." Because of the ground conditions, the building is founded on shallow pad foundations above the rock to avoid differential settlement.

The lower tennis court areas dictated the overall grid pattern for the entire structure. "A number of restrictions come into play with tennis courts, such as rooflight positioning, and this meant the optimum grid was set at 7.6m," adds Mr Mellow.

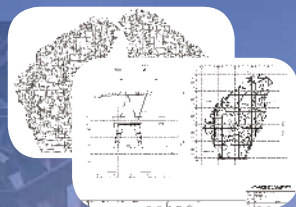
From the upper level of the main building a two tier driving range structure connects to a small two storey football pavillion.

Steel erection took 12 weeks and Atlas Ward began by erecting the upper section of the building and then worked down the slope.

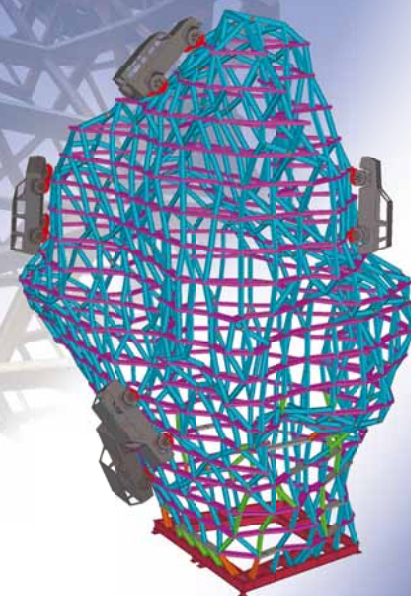
"Despite the bad weather and the exposed nature of the site, the steel went up without any problems," sums up Atlas Ward Construction Manager Andrew Kilby. "There was a road right to the site and we used mobile cranes for all the erection."

Playsport Scotland will be the nation's most advanced public sports development. It is due to open in spring 2009.





Tekla Structures drawings



Structures

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Handling a complicated design

The door handle of a famous car marque was the inspiration behind the design of a new academy in Liverpool. Martin Cooper reports.

World famous it may be, but the Jaguar car isn't necessarily associated with Liverpool even though they roll off the production line at Halewood on Merseyside. But that's all about to change, thanks to a new school which has borrowed some of its design from a car - a Jaguar door handle to be precise.

The North Liverpool Academy, being built on former playing fields and within earshot of both of the city's football grounds - Anfield and Goodison Park - is predominantly a simple beam and column build. But what stands out is a central steel structure shaped liked a car door handle which is sandwiched between the academy's two teaching blocks.

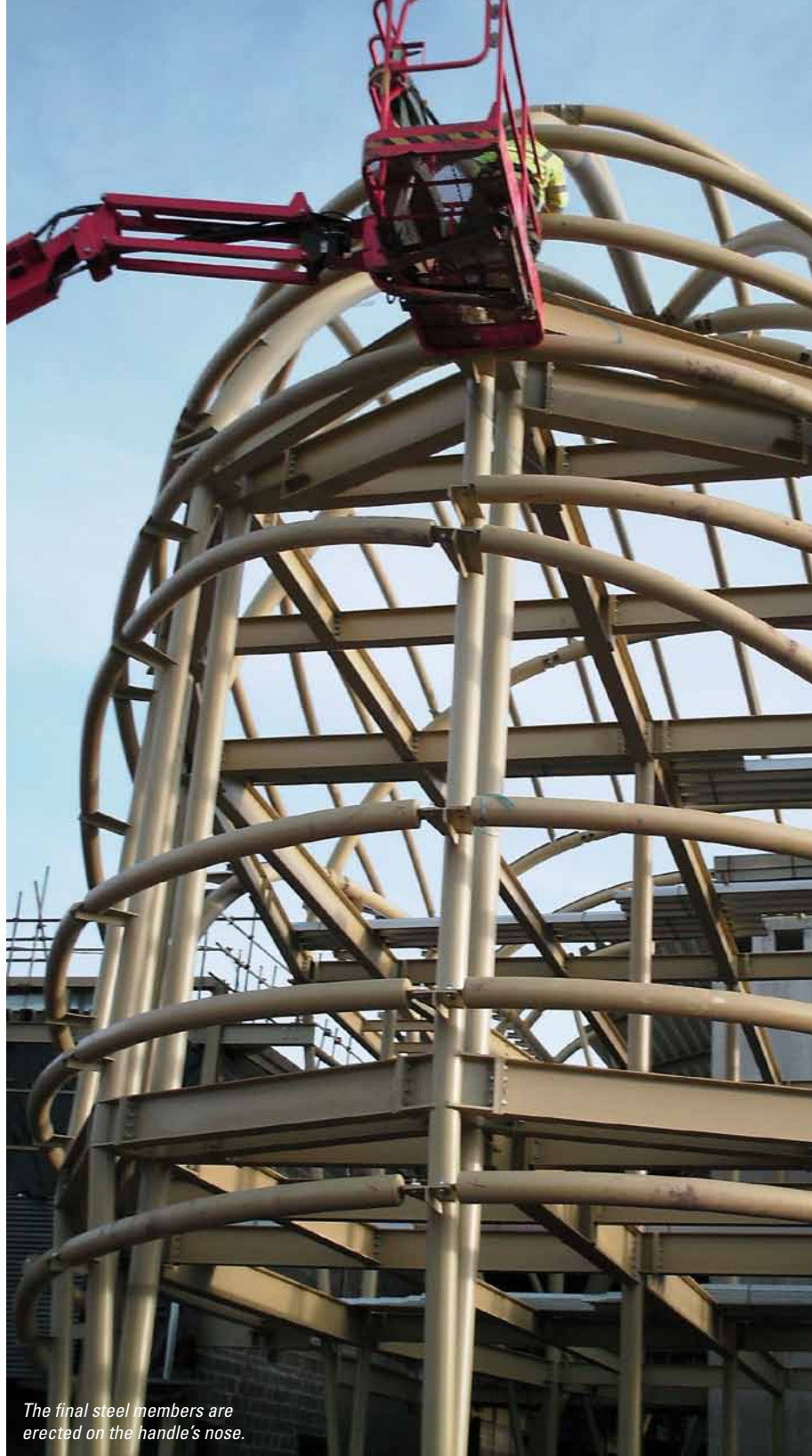
Dubbed the 'handle' the structure is not symmetrical about the short axis as the ridge along the length of the handle and at both the head and tail vary to create the desired shape. At three storeys high, it will stand a floor above the rest of the building. It is 140m long x 15.6m wide and requires 350t of structural steelwork.

Because of the complexity of the handle's shape, the steel erection part of the construction programme has been sequenced around its design. "Ordinarily the project would have been built north to south with the two teaching blocks and the central handle constructed as one. However, the design work needed for the handle was so involved that the two outer blocks were erected first, while the handle's design was still being finalised," explains Tony Foster, Wates Project Manager.

Fabrication drawings were made for each piece of steel. The sections of steel were welded then delivered to site in the order they would be needed. The connections were a challenge and it took time to analyse the loads which passed through the structure to make sure they were the right strength.

"The forces passing through the handle structure are hugely complex," says Paul Hayes, Project Manager for steelwork contractor Billington Structures. "Our design team were working on the model for more than six months."

"The outer two teaching blocks are standard build," adds Nick Garcea, Atkins Project Engineer. "However, the challenge in designing the handle



The final steel members are erected on the handle's nose.

The inspiration for the design was a Jaguar car door handle.



was the fact that it's curved and also skewed by three degrees on plan, which means every connection is different."

The Academy's three blocks are all structurally independent, but there are steelwork connections and interfaces at first and second floor. Interface beams connect the outer blocks to the handle at first and second floor, but these have been designed to allow differential movements between blocks.

The two storey outer teaching blocks were erected around a 7m grid pattern and will predominantly house classrooms. However, the eastern block also contains a sports hall which has column free spans of up to 23m and required a series of 1.25m deep trusses.

Both blocks also feature three ETFE covered lightwells, which are located above common areas. The western block's lightwells have 16m spans, while the slightly narrower eastern block's lightwells have spans considerably smaller at 4.5m.

"Once the teaching blocks were erected we began erecting the handle from its tail, and then worked through to the head using a 60t capacity crane."

Primary bowstring trusses at 12m centres - all of differing length and depth - supported on oval

The construction team are adamant the handle shape will be inspirational to future students

sections form the handle. Above this, steel ribs at roof level then form the distinctive

rounded shape. There are cruciform connections at quarter points, and adding to the complexity, all CHS sections are unique because of the structure's changing shape.

"The connections are all bespoke and they will remain exposed for architectural and aesthetic reasons, so we had to cover them with steel plates," adds Mr Hayes.

As well as the complicated design and fabrication work undertaken by Billington, the company also had to make sure all steel members arrived on site in the order they were needed.

"This wasn't so much of a priority with the teaching blocks," says Mr Hayes. "But because all the steel members for the handle are unique we had to make sure they arrived on site as needed."

The sequencing for steelwork deliveries also included the bowstring trusses as they vary in size, although they are typically around 14m long. The trusses are positioned on first floor level and span in two directions. As well as supporting the rib steelwork the trusses also allow the ground floor area of the handle to be an open area which will be the academy's canteen.

The steel ribs are in a sequence of perpendicular tangential arcs which give a smooth shape and help make the handle erectable.

Stability for the handle is achieved through diaphragm action of the floor plate transferring lateral loads to the lift shafts at both the head and the tail. The connections to the lift shaft at the head

allow longitudinal temperature movements.

One of the most technically challenging parts of the project was getting the curves of the handle's head and tail sections as smooth as possible. Because of the shape a lot of thought went into what materials could be used for cladding.

To prevent faceting three layers of single plywood membrane have been applied to the head and tail sections of the handle and finished with a plastic silver grey membrane coating. The main body of the handle only requires two layers of ply to get the curve correct.

Curved tubular purlins and sheeting rails will also help give the external shape to the head and tail sections.

The majority of the of the roof will be constructed using 200mm metal decking fixed to the steel ribs. To get the smooth continuous surface for the roof, welded steel plates have been added to the top of the CHS supports. On the head of the handle, 48mm decking sheets have been installed to get the required tighter curves.

As to the question why the handle shape was chosen, the construction team are adamant it will be inspirational to the future students, although at first there was some local opposition.



Above: Steel ribs form the arc of the handle's shape.

Below: A series of bowstring trusses support the handle.



FACT FILE

North Liverpool Academy

Main client:

North Liverpool Academy Trust

Architect: Atkins

Main contractor:

Wates

Structural engineer:

Atkins

Steelwork contractor:

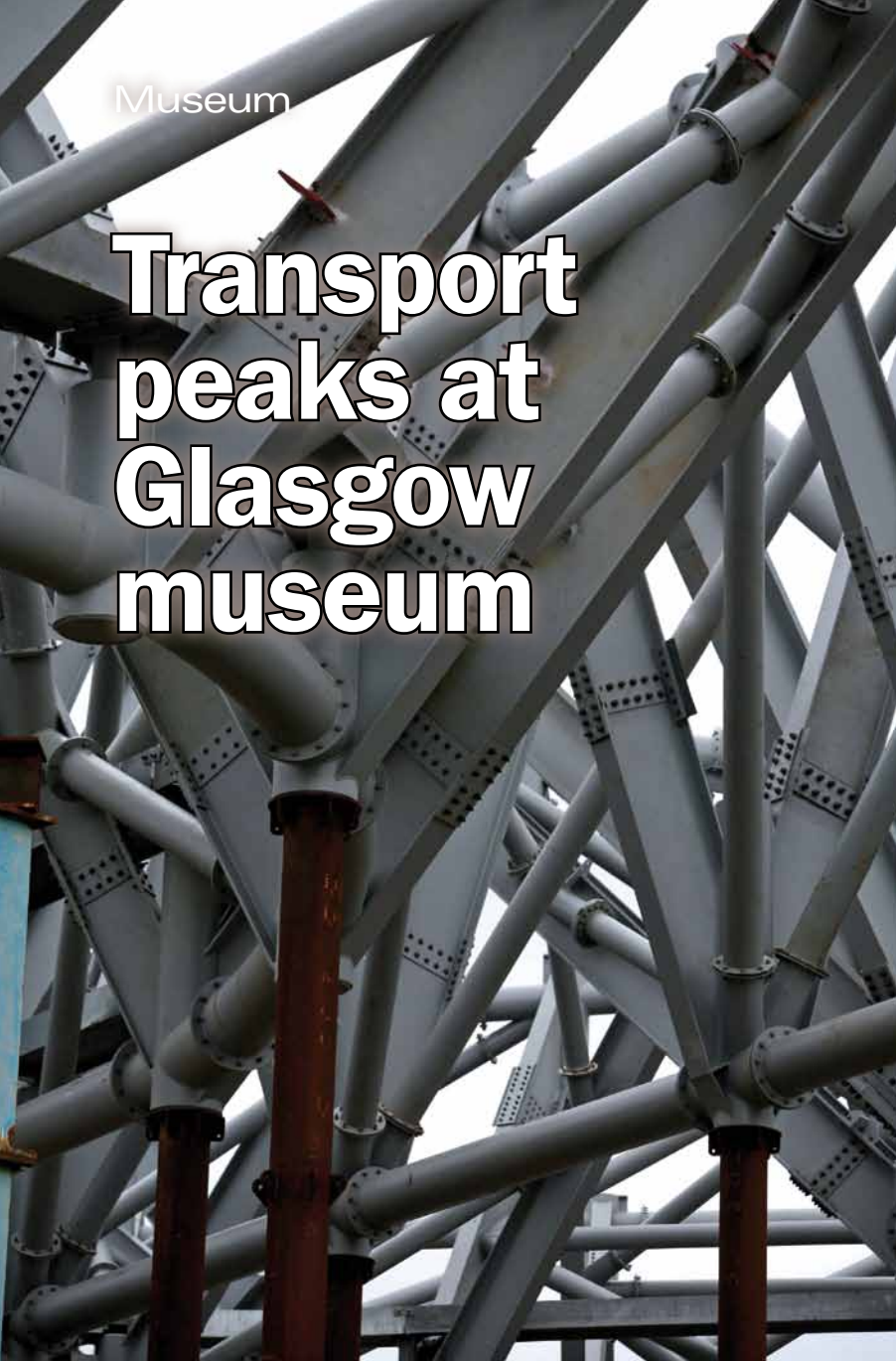
Billington Structures

Steel tonnage: 900t

Project value: £27M



Transport peaks at Glasgow museum



Steel is showing its great flexibility and quality on a challenging design for a new transport museum in Glasgow. Martin Cooper reports on the unique geometry of its iconic twisting and curving steel frame.

Each of the five roof peaks has a different height.



Left: As the erection process proceeds temporary props are positioned below the roof nodes.

Scotland has a rich tradition in the transport and related engineering industries, and no area more so than Glasgow. For hundreds of years the Clyde was home to a thriving and famous shipbuilding industry, so much so that the term 'Clyde built' was recognised as a sign of quality and engineering excellence throughout the world. Locomotives made at the city's famous Springburn works went to power the transport networks of an empire.

Today, the former docks and quays along the Clyde are being transformed as a multi-million pound regeneration programme is breathing new life into the area. One of the most prestigious and eye-catching projects is the Riverside Museum, a new iconic museum to showcase the city's contribution to transport.

Due to open in 2011, the new museum will replace the current Museum of Transport, located nearby at Kelvin Hall, and will display more than 3,000 transportation related objects, including the locally-built Tall Ship Glenlee, which will be moored alongside the building.

The museum is being built on a 1.2ha site at the confluence of the Clyde and Kelvin rivers, one of the few intact areas of historic quayside, and a fitting reminder of the city's shipbuilding past.

Work on site started in 2007 and the design of the building was the brainchild of much-acclaimed architect Zaha Hadid. The building is a twisting and curving steel framed structure on plan with two folds or transition zones (the points at which the building's straight planes turn), while the roof is an innovative pleated concept with five peaks and valleys.

With two main facades, one facing the city and the other leading directly to the riverfront, the design creates a tunnel-like building which will create a historic transportation journey for visitors.

Advance works carried out by BAM Construction included ground clearing and digging out the old foundations of the site's former warehouses. Once this was complete an extensive piling programme took place with precast and in-situ piles installed.

This allowed the ground floor slab to be cast ahead of steel erection. "The steelwork has dictated the construction programme," says BAM's Construction Manager, Jim Ward. "Because of the complex design we have divided the steel erection into seven phases with the slab being cast ahead of the steel erection."

A sequential programme means the steel erectors are predominantly working off of a clean and smooth concrete slab, while the cladding contractor has been able to begin its work by following on behind the steelwork.

The superstructure's heavily reinforced slab has been designed as a continuous suspended flat slab, which will be taking some extremely heavy loadings from the museum's exhibits, such as locomotives. Within the slab and below the ground floor a series of service trenches, 3m x 3m, allow routing of duct work and electrical services to be hidden under the exhibition space.

Large open column free spaces, up to 50m wide in places, have been achieved by forming the

Right: The roof nodes or cans are mostly unique and are able to accept up to ten steel members.

FACT FILE

Glasgow Riverside Museum

Client: Glasgow City Council Cultural Leisure Services

Architect: Zaha Hadid Associates

Main Contractor: BAM Construction

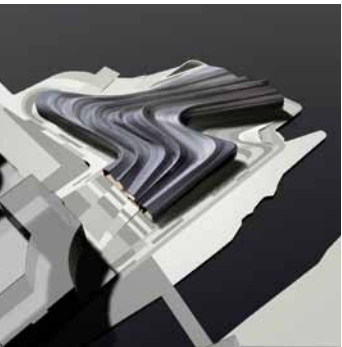
Structural engineer: Buro Happold

Steelwork contractor: Watson Steel Structures

Steel tonnage: 2,525t



Below: Impressions showing the twisting on plan design and the roof's valleys and peaks.



innovative roof with a series of inclined trusses, following the external geometry of the roof, which utilises folded plate action. The inclined planes are supported at the north and south facades on a series of structural mullions and within the building at the two transition zones.

"The project's geometry is unique," explains Tim Kelly, Senior Engineer for Buro Happold. "The structure exploits the convex and concave geometry to form a locked structure which spans across the width of the exhibition space to the column lines which flank the building."

Along the two outer perimeter elevations the museum features two-storey exhibition areas. Here, cross bracing has been hidden that aids overall stability, which is also derived from portal action at various points in the steel frame.

Phase one of steel erection consisted of a two-storey zone approximately halfway along the eastern elevation. This zone was chosen as the starting point as it would stand up without any propping. From here on, other phases are now being erected which are connected to the initial zone, and three of these subsequent areas are all supported with temporary props and trestles.

The props are predominantly CHS sections and are connected to roof nodes via an 80mm diameter pin. "We've designed the props so they can be re-used throughout the project," explains Andrew Hart, Watson Steel Structures' Contract Manager.

"As the erection front of each zone moves forward, it is progressively de-propped from the rear with the majority of the temporary members being used again in later zones."

During February the project's first de-propping exercise will take place with a total of 27 temporary props and trestles due to be lowered in one day.

The steel pleated roof, featuring five differing peaks, of which the highest is 18m above ground level, is the most complex part of the project. Watson Steel has designed a unique node connection (dubbed a can) which can accommodate

the numerous incoming rafters, bracing and ridge valley members which form the roof.

As the roof pitches at various angles and also slopes from south to north, most nodes or cans are unique and can accept up to ten steel members. The biggest node is approximately 1m in diameter.

"We have 25 lever arch files full of connection calculations at our office," explains Mr Hart. "The majority of roof connections are unique to a single joint and are fabricated using individual jigs that are modelled in XSteel. The curved ridge and valley members, meanwhile, have been fabricated using multi-jigs."

Not only working out the complex roof connections, but also the de-propping programme, has called for close cooperation between Watson Steel and Buro Happold, with models continually passing back and forth.

One of the museum's most important exhibits will be a locally-built steam locomotive known as Loco No. 9. To give the loco a prominent position it will be displayed above first floor level supported on a large steel truss. The truss is curved in plan (because of the building's shape) and spans 30m between two perimeter columns. The truss supports both the roof and the first floor exhibition area. The top cord is formed from a valley beam of the roof, and the lower cord by the edge beam at first floor.

Towards the riverside entrance of the building another large truss, known as the paternoster truss, has been erected. This 26m span element was brought to site in three pieces and assembled on the ground before being tandem lifted into position as one 26t section. This will support a revolving wheel which will house numerous models of ships which were built on the River Clyde.

Turning such an ambitious design into reality has required some in depth and lengthy cooperation between all those involved. When it opens in 2011 the Riverside Museum should reinforce Glasgow's reputation as an engineering and tourism hotspot.

And as Mr Ward sums up: "It will be an attraction that team members will be proud to bring their children to."

Stony Brook School, London
Stow New School, Aylesbury, Bedfordshire
Stow School, Bedfordshire
Stow School, Bedfordshire
Stow School, Bedfordshire

Boldon Nursery

Joseph Chamberlain College, Birmingham

Holmesdale Technology College, Kent

North Street School, Ashford

Milton Keynes Academy

Wesley Hill School, Chillingham

Lutterham Primary School, Northampton

Wesley Hill School, Chillingham

Wesley Hill School, Chillingham

Wesley Hill School, Chillingham

Wesley Hill School, Chillingham

The Grange School, Holloway, London

St. John's School, Radstock

Park University

Paul Parfitt School, Huddersfield

Arden Primary School, Birmingham

Easton Hill School

The Business Academy, Bexley

Cambridge Primary School

Cambridge Primary School

Cambridge Primary School

New Windsor Nursery School, Wolverhampton

Blindfold Primary School, Cambridge

Butterfield School, Bradford

John Bright School, Llandudno

Wen Valley Secondary School, Nottingham

East Riding College, Bridlington

St. John's Secondary School, Rotherham

Usworth Sixth Form College

Falmer School, Brighton

Haverstock School, Camden

Thomas Dalton Academy, Peterborough

Kesh Primary School, Co Fermanagh

Arthur Terry Secondary School, Birmingham

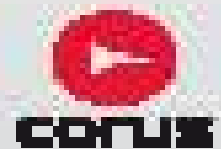
Performing Arts Studio, Bath Spa University College

La Salle Secondary School, Belfast

Bankton Primary School, Livingston

Greenbank High School, Southport





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Machinery investment boosts quality

Advances in quality and productivity in the steel construction sector are to a large part due to developments in fabricating machinery. The last of our Supply Chain series explains the role of the equipment manufacturers.

A steady flow of new machine introductions continues to give steelwork contractors efficiency gains.

Manufacturers of steelwork fabrication equipment have invested heavily in research and development to produce the technological advances required by today's steel construction sector.

Thanks to this continuous improvement, state-of-the-art machinery has been made available from international manufacturers that has helped the UK's steel construction sector improve productivity and efficiency to become the envy of the world.

The last 15 years or so in particular has been marked by continual investment in new technology by the UK steel construction sector, making it the most efficient producers of ready to erect structural steel in the world. A steady flow of new machine introductions continue to give steelwork contractors efficiency gains, which are essential to succeed in a very competitive market.

Whether a company needs a saw, drill, punch and shearing line, profiler, copier or a combination of the aforementioned, today's fabrication equipment is easier to use than previous generations and offers greater productivity with a wider possible throughput of materials.

Other important processes include shot blasting, for clean preparation of steel, and auto painting, which is usually fully integrated as a follow on in-line process from shot blasting. Major steelwork contractors and key structural steel stockholders have shot blast and auto paint lines.

Sawing and drilling are fundamental to structural steel processing, usually in series with a shot blast and auto paint line and often with a coping process. Modern systems are totally integrated and physically linked by conveyors and crossways and controlled by machine specific and total system software.

Manufacturers are continually developing their products and one of the most significant advances has been in controls. Modern electronic controls have made machinery easier to use and, along with computer technology, huge advances have been made.

For instance, bandsaw technology has improved with touch-screen user friendly input and down-the-line machine instruction capabilities, which have refined process control and efficiency. Significant improvements in bandsaw blade technology have resulted in faster precision sawing and more throughput.

Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machinery is the standard today and offers a number of advantages. It is more effective with: single end cuts, arranged square to the member length, which eliminates the set up time that would be needed when changing to another angle or cut; one hole diameter on any one piece, which avoids the need for drill bit changes; and alignment of holes on an axis square to the member length,

Below: A Peddinghaus FPDB-2500, a plate machine with punching, drilling and marking capabilities along with plasma and oxy cutting options.





Above: Ficep Automatic CNC machines with scribing facility at Elland Steel's yard.

holes in webs and flanges aligned, which reduces the need to move the member between drilling operations.

Drilling machines are an essential item for the steel fabrication sector. A major advance for these machines was the introduction of solid carbide drills. Using carbide throughout the working length of a drilling bit allows much faster cutting speeds and greater forces, typically achieving a 300% advance over TCT (Tungsten Carbide Tipped) drills and 500% improvement over HSS (High Speed Steel) drills. Solid carbide is also economical as it enables numerous re-sharpening of the bit.

As an alternative to purchasing individual machines, there has been a trend over the last year or so for complete lines to be produced and installed at steel fabrication facilities. Manufacturers say this is the best means of achieving the most efficient, fully integrated process and control solution.

After sales is another area which has seen a number of advances in recent times. Once a customer has invested in a new machine or processing line, it wants to be sure it works and continues to work properly. To this end manufacturers employ more technicians to help with after sales and service contracts.

In addition to the standard warranty which comes with any new piece of machinery, manufacturers also offer a range of service contracts. The basic elements of each contract usually include the servicing of machines, restoration of factory settings, reduction in the cost of spare parts and a full service history for the machine.

Not only do such contracts provide customers

with peace of mind, but they also have the option of deciding exactly what level of service they require, allowing the servicing costs to be accurately budgeted in advance.

Remote diagnostics is now integral as it allows technicians and service engineers to repair equipment without actually visiting the fabricator. As long as there is a computer link, a technician can fix an item of machinery from anywhere in the world. This saves time and means repairs are executed faster.

The immediate response made to customers and advanced diagnostic capabilities ensure total support, backed by a wide range of spare parts. Basic spare parts are normally carried by service engineers to ensure machine down-time is kept to a minimum.

Manufacturers also provide a programme of continuous training and manuals as well as software updates which can be easily downloaded via the internet.

Training is an important element for any new piece of machinery. Manufacturers often offer a training programme for a customer which may also include a visit to the production facility. This allows the future operative the chance to see the machine being built as well as observing it in full production mode.

Recognition is given to the following companies which are supporting the BCSA/Corus steel construction market development programme.
Ficep (UK) Ltd
Peddinghaus Corporation UK Ltd
Voortman UK Ltd

Below: A Voortman V630 CNC controlled drilling machine.





Above: The building sits on a busy junction opposite Victoria Station.

Commercial landmark for Victoria

The number of planned office developments across the UK has taken a dip in recent months, however there are still many on-going projects including a prestigious building opposite London's Victoria Station.

FACT FILE

Abford House, 333 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London

Main client:

Heron International

Architect:

Sheppard Robson

Main contractor:

Carillion

Structural engineer:

Arup

Steelwork contractor:

Bourne Steel

Steel tonnage: 1,150t

Project value: £37M

A new landmark commercial building is rising up opposite Victoria Station, on a plot bounded by Vauxhall Bridge Road, Wilton Street and Victoria Street. Befitting a structure on such a prominent and prestigious site, the D-shaped nine-storey building, known as Abford House, will be topped with a dramatic curved roof and feature a large double height entrance area at ground level.

Offering an overall floorspace of some 12,000m², Abford House replaces two Victorian office blocks that occupied the site until being demolished in 2007. Once the site had been cleared main contractor Carillion excavated and formed a new concrete lined two-level basement to replace the existing one floor of basement.

The superstructure for the new building is steel framed, as many high-rise commercial developments are for reasons of cost, efficiency and speed of construction.

Abford House's steel frame begins at the upper basement level (-1) and despite the fact that the structure abuts the adjacent Apollo Theatre on one

elevation, the building is completely free-standing.

The perimeter columns are all spaced at 7.5m intervals but one member at ground floor level was installed as a raking column. "There was an old substation on the site and so the foundation work and the erection of new steelwork had to be slightly diverted around it," explains Steve Peet, Chief Engineer for Arup. "We designed a

As well as the core the structure's stability is also derived nominally from the building's curved facade which has been designed as a moment frame.

raking column which cantilevered over the substation. In this way the steelwork erection wasn't held up while the substation was removed."

Looking at the building from ground level the most noticeable feature is the entrance area situated at the nose, or tip, of its D-shaped footprint. A double-

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height recessed facade has perimeter columns forming an external colonnade for pedestrian use, while internally it is column free, giving it an open plan feel.

Set back from the tip of the structure's perimeter columns, the entrance area also contains a mezzanine floor which is hung from the above second floor, which means there are no columns intruding into the area.

"Erection of the under slung floor introduced some complexities into the steelwork build sequence," explains Charlie Rowell, Construction Director for Bourne Steel. "The first floor was installed initially supported on temporary columns and jacks. Once the upper floors of the structure had been erected and the second floor concrete poured, these temporary columns were removed by releasing the jacks, transferring the weight of

the first floor to the second floor above."

From the second floor upwards the building's steelwork grid pattern is based around the one concrete core and two central internal columns. Either side of these columns there are two long 15.3m spans, formed with cellular beams. As well as the core the structure's stability is also derived nominally from the building's curved facade which has been designed as a moment frame.

According to Mr Peet, the use of Fabsec cellular beams was chosen for all floors for their efficiency, as all services can be kept within the structural void and run through the beams holes. The use of cellular beams also means the floor to ceiling heights can be maximised and the building has added flexibility for possible multi tenancy and various service needs.

Between the basement and second floor level

Above: The two large 15m spans are a feature of all floors.



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Below: The D-Shaped nose of the building incorporates a pedestrian colonnade.



Commercial

The upper floors of the project step back and feature a large mansard.

two heavy load bearing internal central columns are spliced at each floor level. "We had to keep the steel member weights within the 5t lift capacity of the site's only tower crane," explains Mr Rowell.

At the seventh floor the structure takes on a slightly different design, although still based around the one southern core and two internal columns. Here the building steps back and incorporates a large mansard.

Also constructed with cellular beams the two storey mansard follows the building's D-shape and consequently the eighth and ninth floors are also set back.

Over-sailing the entire structure will be a large curving roof, nicknamed the 'bonnet'. Formed by a series of tubular arched sections it will be clad with louvres and will give the building a dramatic signature topping.

Bourne gives birth to new company

The Bourne Group has launched a new company known as Bourne Site Services, which has been formed to provide a focus for the construction activities of Bourne Steel, Bourne London, Bourne Western and Bourne Special Projects.

"Works of all sizes and complexity will be undertaken by the new company, with projects larger in size than Abford House down to jobs involving minor steelwork elements," explains Charlie Rowell, Construction Director for Bourne Steel.

The new business will allow the Group to better co-ordinate the site delivery of their wide range of services which include structural steelwork, architectural metalwork, steel stairs, precast flooring and stairs, cladding, metal decking, off-site modularisation and turnkey car parks.

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BS 9999: A new approach to design of fire precautions in buildings

John Dowling, Construction Development Manager at Corus, and Brian Kirby, Sirius Fire Safety Consultants explain the advantages of BS 9999, a new code of practice for fire safety in design, management and use of buildings.



Since the mid 1980s, fire precautions in buildings in England and Wales have been designed principally to the provisions of Approved Document B to the Building Regulations, making regular reference to BS 5588, *Fire precautions in the design, construction & use of buildings*.

The Approved Document approach has served its purpose well, but the past decades have seen a significant commitment in the UK to research into fire behaviour, which has resulted in improvements in knowledge and understanding of fire behaviour and how risk is created in fire. As a consequence, many of the provisions of the Approved Document are now recognised as outdated and/or overly conservative; something which has led to the increased use of fire engineered solutions, especially for large and complex buildings, (although it should be acknowledged that the improved level of knowledge has also exposed areas where the provisions of the Approved Document could be said to be unconservative, a possibility acknowledged in the introduction of that publication).

The increasing use of fire engineered solutions has led, in 2001, to the publication of BS 7974, *Application of fire safety engineering principles to the design of buildings*. This is a high level document which sets out the processes and procedures to be applied when adopting a fire engineered solution for a building. It is used primarily by experts in the field.

The increasing knowledge of fire behaviour and the obvious limitations of the Approved Document approach to fire precautions has made it clear for some time that there was scope for another approach which would sit between that publication and the fire engineering approach. The result has been the creation of BS 9999, *Code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings*, published in October 2008, following a ten-year development period. Whilst prescriptive, the new Code allows the user to vary the solutions required to meet the provisions of the Building Regulations according to the particular circumstances of the building. On publication, the BSI said: "The standard builds on government guidance to legislative requirements, providing

an advanced approach to fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings. It promotes a more flexible approach to fire safety design through use of structured risk-based design where designers can take account of varying human factors."

BS 9999 does not sit in opposition to Approved Document B. Nevertheless, it is understood that, after April 2009, all references to BS 5588 will be withdrawn from the Approved Document, a development which will probably accelerate the widespread adoption of the new standard.

One of the most obvious changes in BS 9999 involves structural fire resistance requirements, and this is generally good news for the steel construction sector. The Approved Document generally required 60 minutes fire resistance for buildings up to 18m in height; 90 minutes for buildings between 18 and 30m and 120 minutes plus a sprinkler system for buildings over 30m in height. Some reductions are allowed in these ratings for buildings under 30m where sprinklers are installed but these are not usually cost effective and are rarely invoked.

That option is still available in BS 9999 but it is complemented by an alternative approach which classifies buildings according to a risk profile based on occupancy, fire growth rate, ventilation conditions and height. There are limitations on the buildings on which this approach can be used, based on ventilation area, but it is expected that few buildings will be excluded. The risk profile of the building, and therefore the fire resistance requirement, can be reduced if a sprinkler is installed. Sprinklers are not mandatory in any building although two separate statements are made to the effect that, for heights over 30m or for heights over 30m in buildings using phased evacuation, sprinklers should be installed.

BS 9999 allows more attractive trade offs for automatic sprinkler installation and automatic fire detection than are generally available in the Approved Document. The following example is given for a shop with a risk profile requiring 45 minutes fire resistance, a maximum two way travel distance of 40m, a ceiling height of 4.5m and a minimum door width per person of 6mm:

If a shop sales area with this risk profile is fitted

with sprinklers its risk profile reduces and the maximum two-way travel distance is increased from 40m to 50m. Similarly the maximum one-way travel distance may be increased from 16m to 20m. The fire rating can be reduced from 45 to 30 minutes. If a smoke detection system and a voice alarm giving evacuation instructions are also fitted, the maximum two-way travel distance may be increased by 15% from 50m to 57.5m. Similarly the maximum one-way travel distance may be increased from 20m to 23m. If the ceiling height is between 4m and 5m, an additional 10% may be added, to bring the limits to 63.25m and 25.3m. The limits are 75m and 24m for two-way and one-way travel distances, so in this example the limits would be 63.25m and 24m. For the same shop with sprinklers, the minimum door width per person can be reduced to 4.1mm. Fitting a smoke detection system and a voice alarm giving evacuation instructions permits the width to be reduced by 15% to 3.48mm per person. If the ceiling height is between 4m and 5m, the width may be reduced an additional 10% to 3.13mm. This is less than the minimum value of 3.3mm allowed for the risk profile, so in this example the minimum limit of 3.3mm would be used.

The increased travel distances with increased storey height simply reflects what is already known and adopted by fire engineers in that the higher

the ceiling, the longer it takes for smoke to fill the compartment and therefore the lower the risk.

Fire resistance requirements for a number of common building types are compared in the following table:

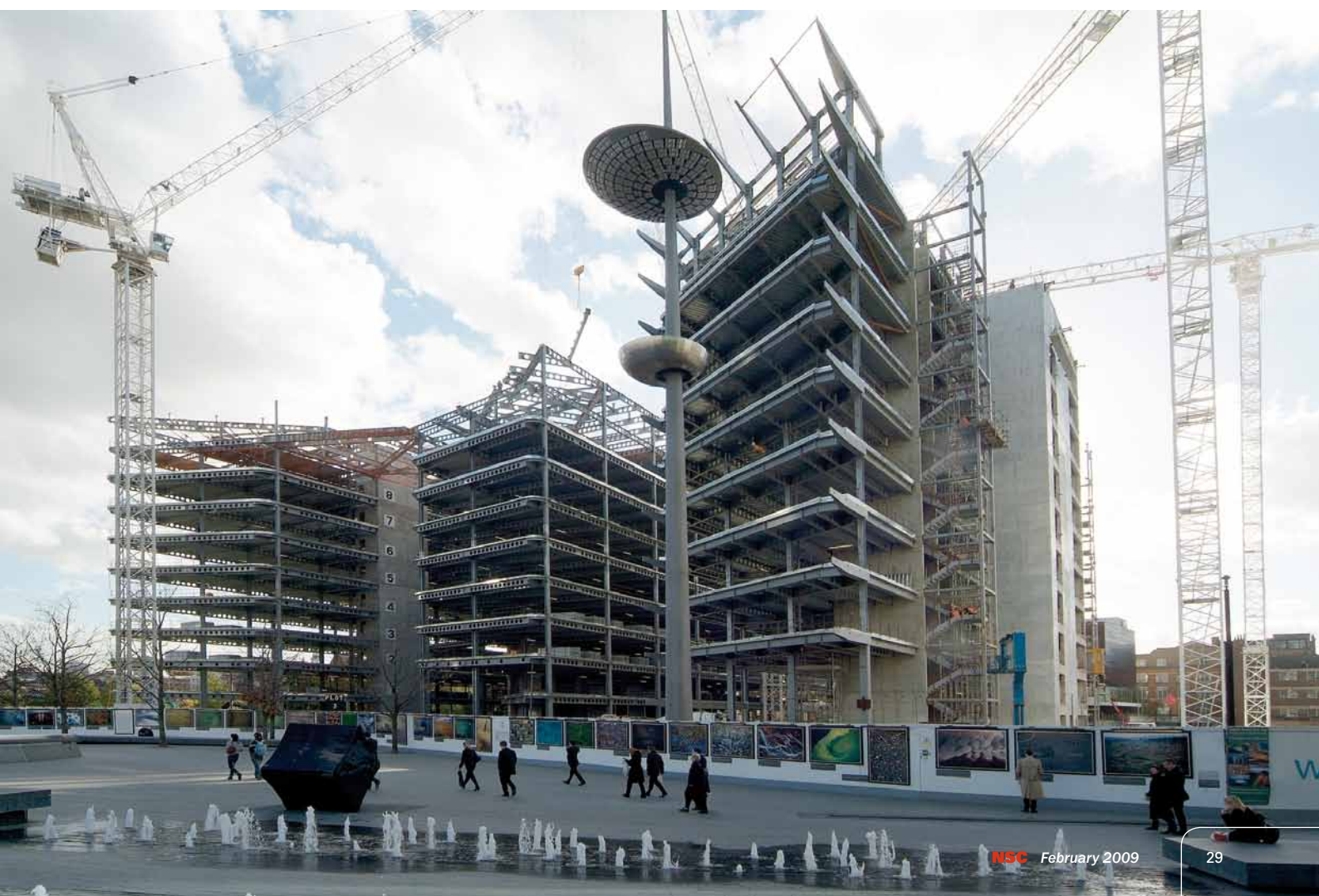
Building Description ⁺	Approved Document B (mins)	BS 9999 without sprinklers (mins)	BS 9999 with sprinklers (mins)
Open plan office building, 2 storey, less than 1000m ² ground floor area.	30	15*	15*
Open plan office building over 30m but less than 60m in height.	120 plus sprinklers	90#	60
3 storey Department store.	60	45	30
Department store between 11m and 18m in height.	60	75	60
Medium risk, 4 storey storage.	90	90	60
Leisure centre, 2 storey.	60	30	30

⁺ Height is measured from ground to the height of the floor of the top storey

* Most steel members can achieve 15 minutes fire resistance without added protection

It is unlikely that planning permission would be given without sprinklers

Below: Projects such as More London may benefit from BS 9999's more flexible approach to fire safety design as consultants can take into account varying human factors.



Is the UK ready for the Eurocodes?

In October 2008, all SCI members in the UK were invited to complete a short survey on the steel sector's preparations for the Eurocodes. David Brown, SCI Deputy Director, sums up the survey findings

The survey

The survey was undertaken to inform a presentation at the BCSA's Midland and Southern Branch in December 2008, and provides a good snapshot of opinion and progress.

The response rate to the survey was around 1 in 7, which is considered relatively high. Perhaps many respondents saw the survey as an opportunity to share their (often strong) views on the Eurocodes! The main bulk of the responses (57%) were from consulting engineers. Steelwork Contractors accounted for 32% of the responses with the remainder including academics and local authorities.

Awareness

The first question concerned awareness of the Eurocodes, and asked if Clients had enquired about Eurocode designs, or if any design had already been undertaken to the Eurocodes. Overall, around 75% of the responses were a resounding "no", with no real difference between consultants and contractors. A modest 18% indicated that clients were aware, or that designs to the Eurocodes had been either trialed or undertaken already.



Figure 1. When will you (Consultants) design to the Eurocodes?

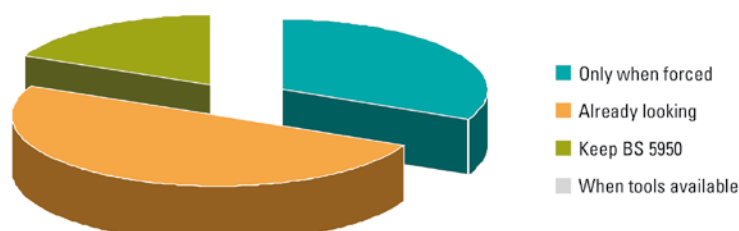


Figure 2. When will you (Steelwork Contractors) design to the Eurocodes?

Timetable of change

The second question asked about likely timetables to change to the Eurocodes. It had been anticipated that many responses would have indicated 2010, or 2015. These two dates are significant since 2010 was the original date for withdrawal of National Standards. BS 5950 is due to be reviewed in 2009, and assuming a new lease of life for 5 years, would therefore remain officially appropriate until around 2015.

The response from consulting engineers is shown in Figure 1.

The corresponding response from Steelwork Contractors is shown in Figure 2.

From both groups, there is a significant proportion who anticipate design to the Eurocodes in 2010. Also in both groups, approximately 25% indicate that they will resist changing design Standards (indicated by a response of "when forced" or "a long time"). In both groups, there were a number of comments about the importance of software as a pre-requisite to change.

The latest news is that Approved Document A of the Building Regulations may change in 2010, with the likely removal of BS 5950 and replacement with BS EN 1993. Although the UK Building Regulations do not demand the use of any particular Standard, listed or not, it is likely that many designers will see the change in the Regulations as a significant driver to change to Eurocode design.

Why might change be considered?

The next question was designed to elicit any perceptions that the change might be a positive move. The response were clear – around 75% (more in the Consulting Engineer cohort) simply said that they would only change from BS 5950 design "if forced to do so". A modest number indicated that the EU-wide market was an attraction, and some considered that change had economic benefit which might lead to competitive advantage.

If BS 5950 remains, why will you change?

This question presumed that BS 5950 could continue to be used for many years, and asked about change. The responses of the Steelwork Contractors are shown in Figure 3 and the responses from the consulting community in Figure 4.

The difference in response to this question is significant. The response from Consulting Engineers appears to indicate that despite wishing to keep BS 5950, a significant proportion are already looking at the Eurocodes, presumably anticipating that they will have to change at some point in the relatively near future. This will have an inevitable effect on the Contractors who follow in the supply chain.

Other members of the supply chain

Respondees were asked to indicate if they thought those following them in the supply chain were prepared for design to the Eurocodes. Overwhelmingly, the view was that they were not ready. A modest proportion of Steelwork Contractors thought others were aware, noting bolt suppliers and cold rolled component manufacturers.

The good, bad and ugly comments

The opportunity to share views was taken by most people who completed the survey, and these were generally helpful, and always illuminating.

Only a few could see any advantage in change. The habit of the UK lagging behind the rest of Europe was mentioned, and it was suggested that the survey contained an implied resistance to change, which was inappropriate. Some with markets wider than the UK saw the Eurocodes as a significant advantage.

Many comments concerned support tools, and particularly software. It was considered that software was essential, with a strong sense that bugs were inevitable – several thought that waiting for software (and training courses) to “mature” would be sensible.

Technically, there were clearly some who had spent some time looking in detail at the Eurocodes, and a very small proportion who had used them. It was noted that the “change is not as big as that from BS 449 to BS 5950” and “they are not as technically challenging as was thought”. From those few who had used the Eurocodes, the view was that they did not offer economic advantage, were too scientific, were incomplete and there were too many nationally determined parameters.

There were conflicting views on inevitability. The idea of the Eurocodes being inevitable was described as “utter rubbish”, whilst at the same time others considered that designers had accepted they were inevitable, “apart from a few pockets of resistance”. Some recommended a speedy implementation, and others a drawn out programme.

Without doubt, the main message was one of cost. Consistently, responses bemoaned the cost of the documents, the guides and the training, and pointed out that for Consultants, the problem was magnified since they were multi-material. Most observed that professional fees were wholly inadequate to cover the cost of the change.

There was limited harsh criticism – reserved mainly for the fundamental idea of Eurocodes



Figure 3. Why change from BS 5950? (Steelwork Contractors).

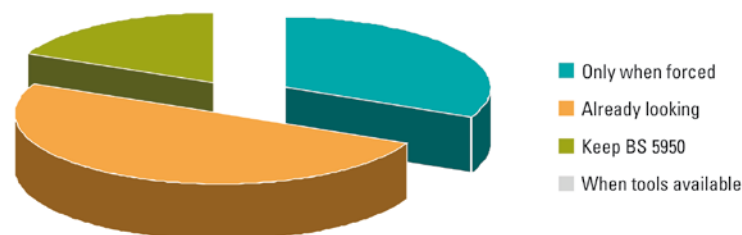


Figure 4. Why change from BS 5950? (Consultants).

and the EU in general. There was some collateral criticism of the SCI, perceived by a few to be blindly supporting the Eurocodes, and encouraging opposition.

Conclusions and observations

Given a choice, it would appear that most respondents would prefer to have nothing to do with the Eurocodes, and retain National Standards unless “forced” to change. There are clearly very significant and real concerns about the cost of the change, especially for smaller practices and when considering the challenge repeated across several materials. Unfortunately, the plan to remove barriers to trade was instigated by political will some 30 years ago, and it seems highly likely that the Eurocodes will be implemented at some stage. For many, that date may be uncomfortably close, if the Building Regulations are changed in 2010. The full suite of Eurocodes with National Annexes will be complete early in 2009, so design could be undertaken immediately.

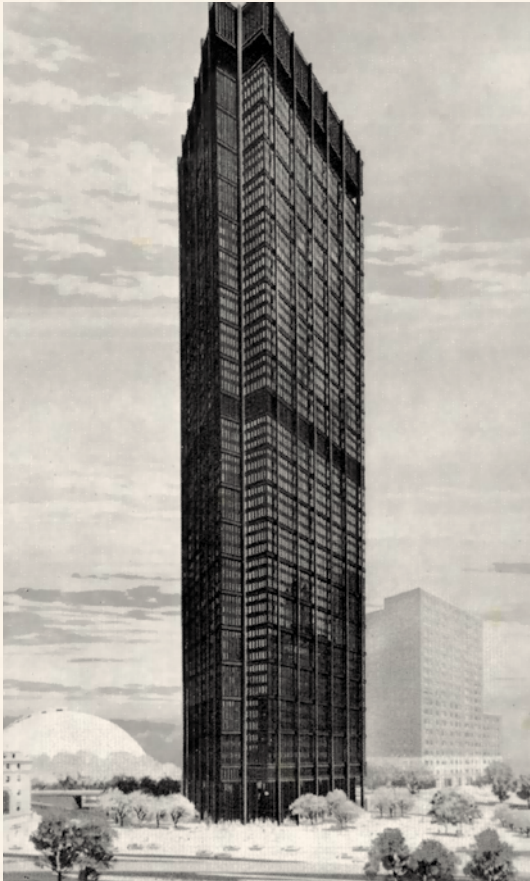
Despite the majority who would prefer not to change, the SCI view is that implementation is inevitable. There are several possible drivers, including the probable changes to the Building Regulations mentioned previously. These include publicly-funded work, where Eurocode design is more likely, pressure from Clients or Insurers and the unwelcome scenario of having a design practice design to different suites of Standards for different materials. There may be some who find that the reduction in ultimate loads reported in previous Eurocode articles is an attraction.

Although there has been a strong (and continuing) campaign to retain BS 5950, the sector has at the same time been preparing to facilitate the introduction of the Eurocodes, assuming demand from designers. A range of training is available and guides will be printed early in 2009 with software also available during the year.

40 Years Ago in

BUILDING WITH STEEL

An architectural expression of structural steelwork with no conventional fireproofing



Above: The new United States Steel Office Building, to be completed in 1970.

Right: The exterior columns are connected to the main structure at every third floor, creating a series of 3-storey buildings, each with its own framing, resting on the column connections.



The bare and basic facts of this building are that it is triangular with 18 exposed supporting steel columns in weathering steel – six for each side – standing out three feet from the building wall. The core of the building is an equilateral triangle with sides 162 ft long. Inside the structure, which covers nearly an acre per floor, there are three rectangular office areas – resembling three separate structures sharing the same core. Each area is 221 ft long and 45 ft 6 in wide. There is a column free area of approximately 10,000 sq ft in each rectangular section.

The following statistics may be dull but they are singularly impressive – height of building will be 841 ft, single floor area 41,164 sq ft, gross area of building 2,900,000 sq ft, number of floors 64, lifts 54, elevators 9, windows 11,000.

Some of the innovations which are of interest to structural engineers are as follows:

Structural frame. The braced core works integrally with the exterior columns through a space frame (hat) at the top of the building which results in greater structural economy. The floors are attached to exterior columns every third floor, thus eliminating spandrel framing and heavy connections to these columns on two thirds of the floors. The two floors in between are supported by 2-storey high columns resting on the floors attached to the exterior columns.

Columns. Exterior Cor-Ten columns – 36 in deep, 24 in wide – are free of conventional fireproofing and are positioned 3 ft in front of the building wall, thus providing an architectural expression of steel structure. These box columns are

Right: Curtain walls for cladding the building will be constructed of weathering steel that turns to a deep russet colour when left exposed to the weather, and never needs painting.





Above: Artists conception shows how the heliport which is to be built at the top of the building may look. Designed for future possible use by vertical take-off aircraft, the heliport will be used initially by conventional helicopters.

fireproofed by filling with a treated water solution that circulates without mechanical aid if fire should occur. Approximately 500,000 gallons of fireproofing liquid will be in the columns.

These columns are divided into four vertical zones, each approximately 200 ft high. In each zone – containing the $\frac{1}{4}$ segments of each of the 18 columns – a piping system with inlets at the top of the chambers, outlets at the bottom, interconnects the columns and a 2,000 gallon treated water tank. Each zone contains 125,000 gallons of this liquid. Storage tanks are located on the 16th, 34th, 50th and 64th floors.

Exterior columns are being fabricated from Cor-Ten plate, varying in thickness from $\frac{3}{4}$ in to 4 in and with a high yield stress of 50,000 lb/sq in.

Modular system. The total modular (4 ft 4 in square) system with constant dimensions from the core wall to the outside wall, 45 ft 6 in (10½ modules) – together with related mechanical and electrical systems – provides the possibility of relocating partitions without altering lighting, air conditioning, architectural finishes or typical structural elements. For the office floors the floor-to-floor height is 11ft 10 in and the floor-to-ceiling height is 8 ft 6 in.

Exterior walls. Cor-Ten steel wall framing with horizontally pivoted stainless steel windows is to be used for the exterior wall. The vertical mullion will have a $\frac{5}{8}$ in depth and will frame the 6ft high by 2ft 4 in wide windows. The panel area between the vertical lines of windows will be 2 ft wide by 32 ft high. Each window and adjacent panel measures 4 ft 4 in which corresponds to the interior office module.

A very significant innovation comes under the heading 'Heliport'. Design is adequate to accommodate vertical take off aeroplanes in accordance with data furnished by aircraft companies. They indicate that these aircraft will be used in the next few years. Conventional helicopters will use the heliport in the meantime. One of the architects of the building has stated that in collaboration with engineers, all types of plan form were studied and analysed before the triangular plan was finally adopted. He says that the triangular plan is amazingly efficient as a structure, the form most fitting to the functional requirements of a major high rise building. The basic structural and wall elements are articulated clearly and produce an interesting play of form and shape, displaying the vitality of the structural system. "We feel we have a building which illustrates the excitement and glamour of steel."

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AD 330

Open top box girders for bridges

Recently there has been an increase in the use of 'open-top' boxes for the creation of composite box girder bridges. Typically, they are employed where the span is in excess of about 50 m and a pair of trapezoidal sections are used with a common deck slab, as shown in Figure 1. The open boxes are erected first and the slab is then cast in situ.

To stabilise the narrow top flanges during construction, cross bracing is provided at moderate spacing (4 to 7 m spacing). The guidance given in SCI publication P140 suggested that such bracing provided effective lateral restraint to the top flanges and that the effective length of the top flange (for lateral buckling) could be taken as 0.85 times the spacing of the bracing (considering the flange as a chord to a truss). However, this presumption relied on there being sufficient warping stiffness of the channel-like section to prevent an overall lateral torsional buckling developing before local buckling between bracings.

With the use of inclined flanges, the bottom flange of such box sections can be quite narrow



Figure 1 Typical cross section of an open-top composite box girder bridge

and this means that the warping stiffness is quite low. Overall lateral torsional buckling, with a half wavelength equal to the span, can then occur, in the form shown in Figure 2. This can occur at relatively low loads (i.e. with only a small factor between the elastic critical load and the load at the wet concrete stage) and at a much lower load than would cause buckling of the top flanges between bracing positions. Even when there is sufficient factor between design load and elastic critical load, the low warping stiffness could permit significant twist, sufficient to allow unacceptable rotation at midspan (the slab surface would have an unacceptable transverse slope).

Designers should therefore consider this mode of buckling during construction and determine its elastic critical buckling load. If the open top section is too sensitive to that mode of buckling, either a wider section should be used (although it may be impractical to choose a suitable geometry) or plan bracing should be provided at top flange level.

Plan bracing at or near top flange level creates a 'pseudo-box' and thus develops a torsional stiffness comparable to the St Venant torsional stiffness of a closed box. This torsional stiffness is much greater than the warping stiffness of the open section. However, plan

bracing at top flange level is very inconvenient for slab construction (its presence conflicts with permanent formwork and the slab reinforcement). Bracing can be provided just below top flange level (and connected at cross bracing positions) but the designer must then consider its influence in the permanent condition. Such bracing will be stressed by overall bending of the composite box and, since the members are slender, they may tend to buckle in midspan regions, although such buckling is not critical (the contribution to bending resistance is not needed) and the load they carry will simply be shed. Perhaps more significantly, the fatigue effects at the connection of the bracing need to be considered. Alternatively, the plan bracing could be removed but this would require access inside the box and is very undesirable for health and safety reasons.

Plan bracing need not be provided along the whole length of a span. It may be sufficient to provide plan bracing at support regions and at midspan regions but in such cases further modes of buckling will need to be considered - a 3D elastic buckling analysis would be essential.

Contact: D C Iles
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Email: advisory@steel-sci.com

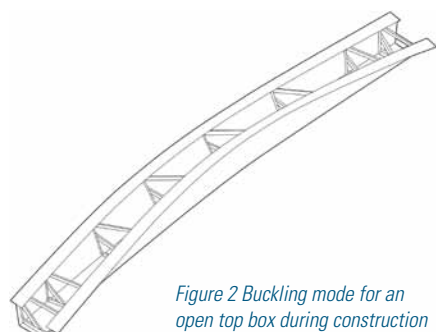


Figure 2 Buckling mode for an open top box during construction

Codes & Standards

New and Revised Codes & Standards

(from BSI Updates December 2008 & January 2009)

BRITISH STANDARDS

NA to BS EN 1993:-

UK National Annex to Eurocode 3.
Design of steel structures

NA to BS EN 1993-1-2:2005

General rules. Structural fire design
No current standard is superseded

NA to BS EN 1993-1-8:2005

Design of joints
No current standard is superseded

BRITISH STANDARDS REVIEWED AND CONFIRMED

BS 8100:-

Lattice towers and masts

BS 8100-2:1986

Guide to the background and use of
Part 1 'Code of practice for loading'

BS 8100-3:1999

Code of practice for strength
assessment of members of lattice
towers and masts

BS 8100-4:1995

Code of practice for loading of
guyed masts

NEW WORK STARTED

BS EN 14399:-

High-strength structural bolting
assemblies for preloading

BS EN 14399-1:2005/Amendment 1

General requirements

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BS EN ISO 14171 Welding
consumables. Solid wire electrodes,
tubular cored electrodes and
electrode/flux combinations for
submerged arc welding of non alloy
and fine grain steels. Classification

08/30177295 DC

BS ISO 14341 Welding consumables.
Wire electrodes and deposits for gas
shielded metal arc welding of non
alloy and fine grain steels.
Classification

SCI ALL SET TO EASE EUROCODE SWITCH

As the leading independent provider of technical expertise and disseminator of best practice to the steel work construction sector, engineering professionals rightly look to SCI for the latest publications to ease the transition to the Eurocodes. As such, we are forging ahead by publishing a full suite of 12 Eurocode publications by June 2009.

The first to be published will be:



P361 Steel building design: Introduction to the Eurocodes.

This flagship book offers a vital introduction to the ten Structural Eurocodes and the format that is used. It also explains the relationship

between the Eurocodes, their National Annexes and non-contradictory complementary information (NCCI). Further sections explain basis of structural design, actions (loads), design of steel structures, and design of composite structure.

The next two books for publication will be:



P363 Steel building design: Design data (SCI/BCSA Eurocode Blue Book).

This publication is the Eurocode version of the famous 'SCI/BCSA Blue Book'. The presentation is

in accordance with the Eurocode, and the resistances are presented in a form for direct use.



P365 Steel building design: Medium rise braced frames.

This publication covers the design of braced steel-framed medium rise buildings, offers guidance on the structural design of the superstructure

and general advice on such issues. It refers to the Structural Eurocodes, which are due to replace BS 5950.

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BCSA is the national organisation for the steel construction industry. Details of BCSA membership and services can be obtained from **Gillian Mitchell MBE**, Deputy Directory General, BCSA, 4 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2ES
Tel: 020 7839 8566 Email: gillian.mitchell@steelconstruction.org

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- Q** Specialist fabrication services

Quality Assurance Certification

- Q1** Steel Construction Certification Scheme Ltd
- Q2** BSI
- Q3** Lloyd's
- Q4** Other

Classification Contract Value

- 10** Up to £40,000
- 9** Up to £100,000
- 8** Up to £200,000
- 7** Up to £400,000
- 6** Up to £800,000
- 5** Up to £1,400,000
- 4** Up to £2,000,000
- 3** Up to £3,000,000
- 2** Up to £4,000,000
- 1** Up to £6,000,000
- 0** Above £6,000,000

Notes

- 1** Applicants may be registered in one or more categories to undertake the fabrication and the responsibility for any design and erection of the above.
- 2** Where an asterisk (*) appears against any company's classification number, this indicates that the assets required for this classification are those of the parent company.

* For details of bridgework subcategories contact Gillian Mitchell at the BCSA.

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